



Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association
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NIAA Spring Board of Control Minutes

April 14-15, 2026, Eldorado High School, Las Vegas, Nevada

Agenda

1. Call to Order

President Sloan called the meeting to order at 9:18 AM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Sloan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Tuesday

Voting Members Present:

Pamela Sloan (Region IV, President)
Rollins Stallworth, (Region I, Vice-President)
Linda Cavazaos (Region IV)
Gregg Malkovich (Region II)
Jay Kenny (Region I)
Colin McNaught (Region IV)
Christina Brockett (Region IV)
Wade Poulsen (Region III)
Brian Freeman (Region IV)
Rayanne Sorenesen (Region II & III)
Alex Woodley (Region I)
Keith Wipperman (Region IV)

NIAA Staff Present:

Timothy Jackson (Executive Director)
Neil Rombardo Esq. (Legal Counsel)
Bartt Davis (Assistant Director)
Sean FitzSimons (Assistant Director)
Cate Sgroi (Assistant Director)
Tia Wunder (Administrative Assistant)

Non-voting Liaisons Present:

Dennis Holmes (Superintendents)
Myles Baldwin (Class 1A)
Ken Parker (Class 2A)
Austin Mayo (Class 3A)
Tami Habig (Class 4A/5A South)
Teresa Burrows (Class 4A/5A North)
Domingo Rivera (Private Schools)
Dave Henneman (Charter Schools)
Ellen Townsend (Officials)
Xavier Antheaume (NADA)
Elsie Moore (Region IV Student)

Public Present:

Dallas Larsen, Moapa Valley
Brian Poole, Virgin Valley
Rich Muraco, SNFCA, Liberty
Kristin Grimm, CCSD
Tony Polzien, Foothill
Deb Dowty Solari, NIAA Spirit

Public Present cont...

Ray Ortiz, Las Vegas
Reggie Farmer, Doral Red Rock
Tran Kaunn, Shadow Ridge
Jennifer Lopez, Eldorado
Lindsey Washington, Eldorado
Courtney Swendseid, Eldorado
Greg Cole, Mojave
Jessica Lovell, Sierra Vista
Joseph Bedowitz, Sierra Vista
Justine Stout, Durango
Michael Strong, Pahrnagat Valley
Aikus Chadha, NASC

Wednesday

Voting Members Present:

Pamela Sloan (Region IV, President)
Rollins Stallworth, (Region I, Vice-President)
Linda Cavazaos (Region IV)
Gregg Malkovich (Region II)
Jay Kenny (Region I)
Colin McNaught (Region IV)
Christina Brockett (Region IV)
Wade Poulsen (Region III)
Brian Freeman (Region IV)
Rayanne Sorenesen (Region II & III)
Alex Woodley (Region I)
Keith Wipperman (Region IV)

NIAA Staff Present:

Timothy Jackson (Executive Director)
Neil Rombardo Esq. (Legal Counsel)
Bartt Davis (Assistant Director)
Sean FitzSimons (Assistant Director)
Cate Sgroi (Assistant Director)
Tia Wunder (Administrative Assistant)

Non-voting Liaisons Present:

Dennis Holmes (Superintendents)
Myles Baldwin (Class 1A)
Ken Parker (Class 2A)
Austin Mayo (Class 3A)
Tami Habig (Class 4A/5A South)
Teresa Burrows(Class 4A/5A North)
Domingo Rivera (Private Schools)
Dave Henneman (Charter Schools)
Ellen Townsend (Officials)
Xavier Antheaume (NADA)

Public Present:

Dallas Larsen, Moapa Valley
Brian Poole, Virgin Valley
Reggie Farmer, Doral Red Rock
Michael Strong, Pahrnagat Valley
Alex Wright, LV Review
Aikus Chadha, NASC
Paul Speaker, LV Desert Dogs
Jeremy Sievers, LV Desert Dogs

4. Announcements

No announcements were made at this time.

5. Public Comment

Rich Muraco, SNFA, provided public comment regarding the new playoff schedule for football, with the succession of CCSD 4A/5A teams moving to Independent status. He said that the perception was an issue and it appears that the north is favored. He said he hopes to see changes made during the next realignment cycle that will improve communication and the collaboration of new ideas.

Kory Anderson, Southern Nevada Track, stated that there are still issues with finding host sites for track and field postseason and that the standalone divisions were especially challenging. He said he hoped to see changes in the next realignment cycle that would address the standalone divisions so that students could experience a more unified postseason.

Alexa Anderson, Spanish Springs track and field, stated that she wished to see improved communication between the state and coaches, she feels that updates are not being shared adequately. She would like to see the NIAA and coaches associations working together and for the coaches to be notified when certain items are being proposed.

Sunny Valencia, a parent, addressed the Board regarding student eligibility and the transfer system; her student transferred using COSA and unfortunately is ineligible to participate in his JV program. She said that she wishes to see this policy change for situations like hers.

Shana Wilkons, gave public comment regarding coaches associations and their ability to host postseason events, specifically track and field. She said that the postseason was coming up soon and the need for schools to host is important. She would like the NIAA to provide answers when it comes to who is hosting what so that schools can prepare. She said that Carson volunteered to host trials and in the future she would like discussions on postseason sites to happen at the beginning of the school year.

6. Approval of Agenda for April 14-15, 2026, NIAA Spring Board of Control Meeting

Motion: Member Brockett; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve the agenda for the April 14-15, 2026 Spring Board of Control, as flexible. *Motion passed without opposition.*

7. Introduction of new Board of Control Member and Liaison

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, introduced the newly appointed NASC Student Liaisons, Anna Rigsby (Smith Valley High School) and Aikus Chadha (Bishop Gorman High School). The new liaisons will begin their term in the Fall, and hopefully by then a new northern region student would be selected.

Consent Agenda

The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association Board of Control may take items on the agenda out of order; may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; and may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to items on the agenda at any time.

8. Consent Agenda Items

a. Approval of Minutes for February 23, 2026, NIAA Special Board of Control Meeting

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Cavazos, to approve the February 23, 2026, NIAA Special Board of Control meeting minutes. *Motion passed without opposition.*

Reports

9. Financial Reports

Timothy Jackson provided the Board the current financial reports of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) and the Nevada Association of Student Councils (NASC), including the long awaited result from the audits. Mr. Jackson went over gate sales for postseason, costs to staff each host site and where the projected budget is based on his estimates.

Both the NASC and NIAA passed audits with no glaring issues other than that the firm who had conducted them over the last decade has decided that they no longer wish to serve the Association. Upon speaking with potential replacements, it became clear that the NIAA was grossly underpaying for audits, and that the replacement would come with an increase of costs. Mr. Jackson informed the Board that he would inform them once a decision was made on a new firm.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Kenny, to approve the current financials, budget for the NASC and the NIAS, as presented.

Motion passed without opposition.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve the 2024-2025 NASC and NIAA audits, as presented. *Motion passed without opposition.*

10. Liaison, Committee, and Director Reports

- a. Teresa Burrows, Commissioner, 4A/5A Northern Region - Liaison Burrows congratulated the winter region and state champions for the winter season; she announced the athletes that broke local records in the sport of track and field. She also congratulated Dan Schreiber of McQueen, who will be retiring at the end of this school year, and acknowledged his years of service to Nevada athletics.
- b. Tami Habig, Legacy High School Athletic Administrator, 4A/5A Southern Region - Liaison Habig recognized the southern 4/5A champions for their winter successes. Ms. Habig then pointed out the continued frustrations with Charter schools and the implementation of AB 184, and how it creates inequities for the south. There have been situations with students and coaches leaving the public spectrum and student athletes practicing with Charters while they wait to be accepted in the lottery systems. She stated that the creation of a Charter/Private league could be a potential solution to these issues. Liaison Habig concluded stating that the sanctioning of cheer and dance has been a topic of confusion for many; her peers feel that the implementation may be rushed.
- c. Austin Mayo, Lowry High School Athletic Administrator, 3A - Liaison Mayo paid respects to the 3A schools who had successes in their winter season, both in and out of the classroom. He thanked the

- 3A schools who hosted various championships, noting how much work these events take. Mr. Mayo noted that many 3As are waiting to learn more about the sanctioning of cheer to determine whether or not they would make it a sport per site, or continue on having it classified as an activity. He also mentioned discussion of splitting Girls Wrestling into small/large school classifications to help address program growth, and qualifications into the postseason. He concluded by thanking NADA for running an excellent conference.
- d. Ken Parker, Needles High School Athletic Director, 2A - Liaison Parker congratulated the 2A champions statewide and thanks NIAA staff for their presence at various events statewide. Mr. Parker noted that the northern and southern schools reported no major concerns and that their spring season is well underway. He continued on to thank the various host sites statewide and thanked them for doing what's best for student-athletes. The concerns for the 2A continue to be fielding all sports and levels, with fluctuating enrollment numbers. Another discussion amongst the 2A has been potentially introducing a 6 quarter rule for football, to help secure more JV level teams, which would require a change in the current NAC.
 - e. Myles Baldwin, Wells High School Athletic Director, 1A - Liaison Baldwin recognized the 1A champions in basketball and wrestling; he thanked Reno High for hosting state events and the city of Winnemucca for hosting state wrestling. He noted that spring sports were underway and that he wished all programs the best of luck. He congratulated NIAA Hall of Fame inductee Billy Webb, and concluded by stating he hadn't received negative feedback regarding how the NIAA staff conducted business; the 1A feels supported.
 - f. Domingo Rivera, Bishop Gorman Athletic Administrator, Private Schools - Liaison Rivera stated there was not much to report from the Private Schools. He said that their jobs in a sports administrative role is to field teams and compete to the best of their ability; it's not about winning or losing, it's about displaying toughness.
 - g. David Henneman, Pinecrest Academy Cadence, Athletic Administrator, Charter Schools - Liaison Henneman congratulated the Charter School champions, thanked NADA for their recent conference and congratulated the Nation Athletic Director of the year. He thanked the Charter and Private schools for working together to ensure that their schools were able to fill full football schedules, with the ongoing issues within the sport.
 - h. Xavier Antheaume, Executive Director, NADA - Liaison Antheaume thanked those that attended their NADA conference, which took place in Reno, despite the winter weather challenges. He acknowledged the new members joining NADA and recognized various awards given to Nevada Administrators, including Shenoa Davis, Thomas Reymer and Laura Harp. . He noted that NIAA Assistant Director, Cate Sgroi was selected as the Vice-Chair for the NIAAA Credentials Committee. He provided a spotlight on Dallas Larsen, CMAA and his colorful history in the state. He concluded by reminding the Board and any schools watching to partake in the NIAA + NADA Summer Institute.
 - i. Ellen Townsend, NIAA, NNOA, Nevada Officials Association - Liaison Townsend provided a report which included an update on payments being processed in a timely manner from member schools to various officials associations, recruitment and shortages and an overview on sportsmanship - which continues to be an issue statewide, but that more details would be covered during the ejection report. Arbiter Game has been adopted to schedule officials for competitions, and it has not been a smooth transition; she recommended more training to address this concern. Ms. Townsend noted an increased number of uniform violations in the winter, both with home/away jersey colors and numbers that are not conducive to the sport of basketball; she plans to remind Athletic departments in upcoming meetings. She concluded by paying homage to the late Joseph David and Ray Salazar, both of whom recently passed and dedicated years to officiating their sports.
 - j. Trey Lundeen, Emerson Wendell, Elsie Moore Student Liaisons - No comments were heard from

student liaisons at this time.

- k. Dennis Holmes, Pershing County School District Superintendent, Superintendents - Liaison Holmes recognized Adam Young, Derild Parsons, Joe Girdner and Joe Ernst, who will be retiring at the conclusion of the school year. He stated that their successors would be announced at the next Board meeting, following their hiring.
- l. Pamela Sloan, Director of Athletics and Activities, CCSD, Board of Control President - President Sloan informed the Board that she would continue to work with NIAA staff to address the upcoming Sunset Committee throughout the process. Ms. Sloan then announced that she would be retiring from CCSD at the conclusion of this school year; she still has one year left on her term as NIAA Board President and said that the Board will need to appoint new chairs. She concluded by recommending the Board of Control review the Executive Director Evaluation process and do an overhaul.
- m. Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, NIAA - Executive Director, Timothy Jackson, reviewed his report to the Board, which included an update to the Joint Standing Interim Committee presentation to the state to cover the NIAA structure, recent policies that are impacting sports, and operational challenges. Mr. Jackson and Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, shared the new formalized sport sanctioning process to highlight the quick turn around on the procedure. They also informed the committee of the ongoing financial sustainability issues, rising facility costs, noted long-term stability challenges and requested support in establishing relationships with incoming pro teams and their facilities, similar to the partnership with the Las Vegas Raiders and Allegiant.
Mr. Jackson updated the Board on the progress regarding the Sunset Committee Presentation, which will occur on May 22nd. The purpose behind this committee is to review various organizations that are overseen by the Nevada Legislative Commission, to determine whether certain boards, commissions and programs should continue, be modified, consolidated or be allowed to expire. He noted the importance of this presentation, as it would impact the student athletes and sports statewide.
Mr. Jackson informed the Board that he and Neil Rombaro Esq., NIAA Legal Counsel, recently attended the NFHS Legal meetings in Indianapolis and covered a range of nationwide legal issues specific to athletics. Discussions included changes to how state associations are run, AI/technology, transfers and transgender policies.
Mr. Jackson informed the Board that the previous firm, Ovist & Howard, that conducted the NIAA and NASC audits have decided to no longer provide their services. He has begun the process of finding a new firm but warned the cost would increase, as the previous rates were outdated and more of a kindness than a practical price for the level of work required.
Mr. Jackson reminded the Board and those watching of upcoming meetings, the Summer Institute training and future travel dates. Mr. Jackson concluded by summarizing the report shared by Tom Clark Solutions regarding their work with the legislators. The firm has worked with staff to start the process of working with them directly and focused on three key goals for the future: financial stability, bridging communication gaps and addressing facility constraints. Tom Clark Solutions will assist in the upcoming Sunset Committee meeting, ensuring that the association is prepared and demonstrates its necessity to the state of Nevada.

11. Partnership Update

Brady Raggio, GM of Sports Properties, provided corporate partnership updates. He noted that so far, 37 partnerships have been gained/maintained this year, which is the highest they have been to date. Mr. Raggio stated that he is seeking partnership similar to that in the North with IBEW in the South, which focus on trades and recruiting students from high school to pursue those career paths. Member Wipperman asked Mr. Raggio what the increase was between last school year in revenue; Mr. Jackson stated that partnerships were

up \$45,000. Mr. Wipperman inquired about the potential to hit a higher revenue share to meet contractual goals and it was stated that PlayFly has until June 30th, yearly, to meet them.

12. Neil Rombardo, Esq., NIAA Legal Counsel

President Sloan opened up this item by stating that Mr. Rombardo has been very helpful so far and has demonstrated willingness to work with her; Mr. Rombardo thanked her and said that the NIAA team works great.

Neil Rombardo Esq. informed the Board that he has concluded Level II and III appeals/hearings, and 4 coach investigations thus far; noting their successes and one case where it ended with a warning. Mr. Rombardo did not wish to elaborate further, in order to avoid Open Meeting Law violations, and let members of the Board know they may privately ask for more details, if needed.

Mr. Rombardo said that there were no further legislative updates, aside from the discussion regarding returned items that would be discussed later.

13. Closed Session

No closed session was had at this time.

Workshop

14. Workshop/Public Hearing to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations returned from the LCB

Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, presented to the Board of Control for the following regulations returned from the LCB for approval.

- a. New Regulation – Spirit season dates - *No action was taken.*
- b. New Regulation – Spirit manual, championship - *No action was taken.*
- c. New Regulation – Spirit general requirements - *No action was taken.*
- d. NAC 385B.046 – Spirit squad defined - *No action was taken.*
- e. NAC 385B.376 – Participation in certain activities - *No action was taken.*
- f. NAC 385B.550 – Compliance with Spirit Rules Book - *No action was taken.*
- g. NAC 385B.552 – Spirit season duration - *No action was taken.*
- h. NAC 385B.554 – Number and membership of spirit squad - *No action was taken.*
- i. NAC 385B.556 – Spirit squad separate tryouts - *No action was taken.*
- j. NAC 385B.558 – Participation in spirit and sanctioned sports - *No action was taken.*
- k. NAC 385B.560 – Attendance in certain spirit competitions - *No action was taken.*
- l. NAC 385B.562 – Conduct of spirit competitions - *No action was taken.*
- m. NAC 385B.564 – Application for spirit sanctioning competition - *No action was taken.*
- n. NAC 385B.566 – Attendance in spirit competition - *No action was taken.*
- o. NAC 385B.208 – Membership - *No action was taken.*
- p. NAC 385B.378 – Game limits (Spirit) - *No action was taken.*
- q. NAC 385B.390 – Sanctioned sports list - *No action was taken.*
- r. NAC 385B.652 – Awards - *No action was taken.*
- s. NAC 385B.798 – Required certification and courses - *No action was taken.*
- t. NAC 385B.852 – Officials’ registration -

Motion: Member Wipperman; **Second:** Member Kenny, to approve NAC 385B.852, as proposed, with the removal of the word spirit in section 2. *Motion passed without opposition.*

- u. NAC 385B.056 – Zone of attendance - Ms. Sgroi reviewed the updated language to zone of attendance and informed the Board that this recently came up during a Level II Hearing.

Motion: Member Brockett; **Second:** Member Stallworth, to approve NAC 385B.056, as proposed. *Motion passed without opposition.*

- v. NAC 385B.124 – Submission of agenda item by member school - Ms. Sgroi introduced the reason behind this policy and explained the proposed language.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve NAC 385B.124, as proposed.

Motion passed without opposition.

- w. NAC 385B.126 – Submission of agenda item by Board or Legislative Commission - Ms. Sgroi provided the Board a brief synopsis of this item and the background behind it.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve NAC 385B.126, as proposed.

Motion passed without opposition.

- x. NAC 385B.378 – Game limits (Football) - Ms. Sgroi explained why this item was brought forth and gave a little history to the safety reason behind it, while noting this impacts the quarter rule discussion. Member McNaught stated he brought this item up and asked why football was not allowed to hold tournaments; the concussion and safety policies were quoted. Member McNaught questioned if they could be held over a period of time, Liaison Rivera said yes and that is what the football postseason looks like currently. Member Kenny asked for further elaboration on why this was being reviewed and Member McNaught said he wanted to look into making changes that would allow for schools opting to go independent to have some sort of end of the year recognition.

Liaison Baldwin said this would be a dangerous can of worms to open and that it would set the wrong precedent. Liaison Henneman asked if those schools who opted to go independent would make this an open invitation for all schools to participate, or would they intend to keep this just for CCSD schools.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve changes in language to NAC 385B.378. ***A roll call vote was held; Members Sloan, Cavazos, McNaught, Brockett, Freeman and Wipperman voted yay; Members Stallworth, Malkovich, Kenny, Poulsen and Sorensen voted nay; Member Woodley was absent. Motion passed 6-5.***

- y. NAC 385B.384 – Tournaments - Ms. Sgroi explained that this change is warranted based on the previously voted on language in 14x.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve NAC 385B.378, as proposed. ***A roll call vote was held; Members Sloan, Cavazos, McNaught, Brockett, Freeman and Wipperman voted yay; Members Stallworth, Malkovich, Kenny, Poulsen and Sorensen voted nay; Member Woodley was absent. Motion passed 6-5.***

- z. NAC 385B.418 – Baseball mercy rule -

Items 14z, and 14aa. were reviewed and voted on together.

- aa. NAC 385B.488 – Softball mercy rule -

Ms. Sgroi explained this was a removal from regulation to align with mercy rule as a procedural document on the website based on NFHS rules and is not needed as a part of state law.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve NAC 385B.418 and NAC 385B.488, as proposed. ***Motion passed without opposition.***

- bb. NAC 385B.708 – Maximum allowable participation - Ms. Sgroi explained that this language was being brought back based on Board interest in addressing rising concerns with the students voluntarily being held back for athletic purposes.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Stallworth, to approve NAC 385B.418, as proposed.

A roll call vote was held; Members Sloan, Stallworth, Cavazos, Kenny, McNaught, Brockett, and Wipperman voted yay; Members Malkovich, Poulsen, Freeman and Sorensen voted nay and Member Woodley was absent. Motion passed 7-4.

Action Items

15. NIAA Board of Control Meeting Dates for 2026-2027

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, reviewed the potential dates for 2026-2027 NIAA Board of Control and recommended adjusting the winter and spring meeting months. Mr. Jackson stated that current meeting dates were disproportionately dispersed, citing the upcoming summer meeting, which will be held in five weeks. Mr. Jackson suggested meetings as September 22-23, 2026; December 9-10, 2026; March 16-17, 2027; June 1-2, 2027. Member McNaught said he believed the Board met too frequently; Mr. Jackson stated that he agreed. Mr. Jackson and Member McNaught were united in the belief that the Board of Control would continue to conduct business effectively with two virtual meetings and two in person meetings, per year.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Cavazos, to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Control meeting dates as follows: September 22-23, 2026, to be held in person in the southern region; December 9-10, 2026, to be held virtually; March 16-17, 2027, in person in the northern region; and June 1-2, 2027, to be held virtually. *Motion passed without opposition.*

16. Spirit Sanctioning

Member Wiperman requested to hear from Assistant Director, Cate Sgroi, about what she has experienced while discussing spirit and looking at altering regulations; Ms. Sgroi reminded the Board of the scheduled workshop and suggested moving to public comment first.

Public comment was heard from Deb Dowty Solari, Spirit Rules Interpreter, stating she felt it was important to sanction spirit and bring back the Silver State Championship. She wants to move forward because coaches she has spoken to echoed her enthusiasm. The main concern is the length of the season, the rest of the issues are workable.

Laura Cross, Eldorado Cheer Coach, voiced her opposition to moving forward with the sanctioning timeline currently proposed, until some of the major decisions on how it will be modeled, are made. She said moving too quickly will increase issues with eligibility and time is needed to see what all this entails.

Jennifer Lopez, Eldorado High Principal, echoed Ms. Cross and requested the NIAA Board to hold off sanctioning until a more stable, beneficial framework is in place.

Lindsey Washington, Eldorado High School, said while she wants to see cheer sanctioned, she believes rushing the process will put programs at risk when Title IX and other regulations come into effect.

Courtney Swenseid, Eldorado High School, questioned the urgency to sanction cheer, and wished to see an inclusive committee established to openly communicate how this change will happen.

Thomas Reymer, Carson City High School, voiced his opposition to the sanctioning of spirit as a sport, because it limits teams, seasons, competitions; he said that leaving the programs as is while adding a state championship or following the CIF model would be a compromise if it a path the Board decides it must take.

A letter was read into record on behalf of the following people(s), who voiced their opposition to the sanctioning of spirit as a sport, as currently proposed; WCSD Principals, Coaches, Directors and departments, and Lauren Ford, Area Superintendent.

Cate Sgroi gave a recap on all the information she shared in the packet regarding the timelines, surveys, postseasons and models. She said she strongly believed that this is not a timeline issue, it is moreso a concern with spirit not fitting in the current box and current regulations do not fit this scenario. Ms. Sgroi reminded the Board of the rules that come into play once a sport is sanctioned; she recommended identifying the wants and addressing those, without sanctioning spirit as a whole, as to not force the sport into the sanctioning box.

The Board discussed whether it would make more sense to rescind the motion altogether, to alter the timeline with a new motion and gather more information prior to the sanctioning of spirit.

Motion: Member Wipperman; **Second:** Member McNaught, to push the sanctioning of spirit, to 2027-2028, while instituting a State Championship event, through the NIAA, for the 2026-2027 school year. ***Motion passed without opposition.***

17. Executive Directors Evaluation and Contract

President Sloan reviewed the 2025-2026 Executive Director's evaluation which was formed by collecting ratings from Board members and staff, which Ms. Sloan then summarized into two separate reports that was broken down into overall rating numbers, a list of commentary that included how Mr. Jackson performed or underachieved based on last year's directives, and a set of new directives for the upcoming year. President Sloan also put together a collection of specific comments in order to provide feedback.

Mr. Jackson requested to address the Board at this time; he began by stating he had no issue with the rating number system, but rather to address his performance in regards to the Board's goal for clear communication. Mr. Jackson said that his communication was consistent, timely, and clear; he continued on to the Board's directive to establish state host sites for the next three years, reminding them of the barriers he continues to face due to financial strain, the tradition of switching north and south every other year, and a lack of willing and affordable hosts overall. The Board has told him that they do not support the NIAA signing multi-year contracts because work would need to be done to district budgets and principal inaccessible to families if contests are always held in one region. Mr. Jackson concluded by stating he would continue to work on the budget and financial well being of the Association and would strive to make all current and future directives a reality during his role as Executive Director.

Member McNaught encouraged Mr. Jackson to continue pursuing venues and requested that all venue proposals be brought to the Board for approval. He pushed back on Mr. Jackson's opinion regarding communication, acknowledging the monthly email updates to the Board, but stating he disagreed.

Mr. McNaught asked how the evaluation process worked and if the scores or the comments were the Director's actual evaluation. President Sloan explained how the current process came to be; Mr. McNaught requested an updated system to acquire data. Ms. Sloan reviewed the staff evaluations and recommended liaisons perhaps be included in the future, as they work directly with the Executive Director. Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, pointed out that some of the goals and directives had staff comments in them, making the evaluation appear different than intended; Ellen Townsend agreed with Ms. Sgroi.

Member Poulsen questioned the Board's overreach on the Executive Director's role, specifically regarding communication with the media. Neil Rombardo, Legal Counsel, stated for the record that if the Board were to review press releases for approval, Open Meeting Law would be violated. Member Cavazos said that the word "review" implies approval and suggested using alternative language to avoid this problem. Mr. Rombardo recommended the Board establish a protocol prior to public release statements.

Member McNaught asked if he would be able to withdraw his evaluation and bring back this item for approval at the next meeting. He said he felt members of the public did not know they could comment on the matter; he then asked if anyone had public comment. Tia Wunder, Administrative Assistant, said she had no new emails and no one had submitted a card for this item; she then reminded the public present how to sign up to speak. Legal Counsel said that according to the Executive Director's contract, the Board should handle during his review. Mr. McNaught said he gave mainly 1-2 scores because he did not feel supported by Mr. Jackson; he said that specifically CCSD Principals did not know about this item. Member McNaught cited this, along with not asking the Board for approval to announce the Hall of Fame Inductees, Mr. Jackson's decision to sanctioning lacrosse to avoid state mandates, and making decisions regarding state wrestling, are all reasons why people have lost faith in Tim Jackson as the NIAA Executive Director. President Sloan asked the public again if anyone had public comment to give; Ms. Wunder had no new emails, upon this second request, a few members of the public stood up to speak.

Public comment was heard by Jessica Lovell, Sierra Vista Principal, who said schools lost faith in the NIAA and the Board to do what's best for schools and students. Timeframes and actions are important for her. Ms Lovell asked the Board to give Mr. Jackson specific guidance, they are currently too vague as presented.

Member Poulsen stated that he believes Tim follows directives he is given, and when he brings them forth to the Board he is discouraged; the body may not like everything an Executive Director decides to do, but the Board does need to give them the autonomy to make day to day decisions in order to run the Association effectively. Mr. Poulsen said that the Board is wishy-washy and that is not how good governance works, naming realignment as an example. Member Poulsen said that in his opinion, his evaluation numbers were good; he concluded by saying the Board needed to stop micromanaging.

Members McNaught and Wiperman question the math used for the evaluation, saying they believed it was imbalanced; President Sloan disagreed that it was imbalanced and explained the math. Member McNaught disagreed and said he did not think his vote counted a lot; CCSD Principals did not feel heard. He continued on to say that the Board is not a good representation of the state and that they did not have a proportionate vote based on the number of schools they have. Member McNaught noted that Charter Schools are technically the second largest school district and they do not get a vote for the Board.

Superintendent Holmes stated he appreciated the process and personally he thinks Mr. Jackson does a good job. Mr. Holmes said the purpose of boards is to focus on policy and regulation, the Executive Director's job is to work collaboratively with them. He concluded by stating he thinks Mr. Jackson is understaffed and it's the Board's job to support him with adequate staff and a centralized office.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Kenny, to approve the evaluation of Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, as presented.

Member McNaught asked legal counsel how he could make an amendment to the directives given to Mr. Jackson; legal said he would need to see if the persons who made the motion would be willing to include that. For point of clarity, Member McNaught stated he believed Mr. Jackson overstepped his authority on many occasions and he was seeking direction to ensure the Executive Director follows policies and procedures set forth by NAC. Member Poulsen reminded Mr. McNaught that those things are in his contract; Member McNaught wished to see it done again. Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director said that NACs specifically give Executive Directors authority to make certain decisions, so directives should not contradict NAC, ie. Hall of Fame Inductees. Member Poulsen said it was Mr. McNaught's opinion and he was not willing to amend his motion to include language because it was redundant and he did not feel the same.

A roll call vote was held; Members Sloan, Stallworth, Cavazos, Malkovich, Kenny, Brockett, Poulsen, Freeman, Sorensen, and Woodley voted yay; Members McNaught and Wipperman voted nay, to approve the Executive Director's evaluation as presented. Motion passed 10-2.

Mr. Jackson explained the next portion of the item which is his contract and he requested the Board approve to renew his contract for 3 more years, upon its expiration in April 2027. Member McNaught said that he represented all of the principals in Clark County School District and they would not be in favor of a 3 year renewal.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Kenny, to extend Mr. Jackson's contract for 3 more years.

Member McNaught stated that he feels that he represents 70% of the state, and across the state high school principals are asking the Board not to do this and are once again being ignored by this body; the Clark County Principals continue to be ignored. Member Poulsen pointed out that his position as a Region Member serves twelve school districts statewide, and he has not received one negative call from a high school principal complaining about the current director specifically. Member Cavazos asked if the time could be reduced from three years to a smaller number in order to compromise; Mr. Jackson said that with all due respect, a 3 year contract is needed in order to continue to get major changes made in a positive manner.

Vice President Stallworth asked Mr. Jackson how many times he has met with CCSD Principals specifically versus other groups; Mr. Jackson listed the different entities he meets with, primarily athletic directors, administrators, superintendents, charter schools etc; CCSD makes up 29% of Nevada schools, not 79%. Member Brockett requested that Mr. Jackson look at the future of athletics, how changes are occurring, and begin to anticipate them.

Assistant Director, Cate Sgroi, took a moment to remind the Board about NAC 385B.108, voting representatives are acting on behalf of an entire region, not specifically public schools, and that their actions needed to consider charter and private school students. Member McNaught asked if this needed to be done today and if there was any public comment; Mr. Rombardo said section 12 of the contracts specifies which meeting they are evaluated and states three actions the Board can take; extend/not extend means contract, so that language implies contracts be done as well. Tia Wunder said there were no public comments at this time. Member Woodley moved to question for a vote.

Member Cavzos said she felt the agenda was not clear enough, and there are members of the public who wish to give public comment and that there were misunderstandings on how the public can do so. Mr. Rombardo explained that the Chair can opt to open up public comment again, but it is not required as it was already given for this item. President Sloan said she wished to reopen public comment.

Greg Cole, Mojave Principal, said that there was no contract attached in the packet so there was no way for him to know and the public wasn't properly notified. He highlighted the recent 4A and 5A CCSD football teams that chose to go independent; he said this should be a reason to extend it by only one year. He concluded by reminding the Board the difference between the words may and shall.

Ray Ortiz, Las Vegas High School, stated he noticed a shift in high school sports in the south and given recent events, he is against Mr. Jackson requesting a 3 year extension because they are unhappy with the current direction the NIAA is going under the current director. He vaguely mentioned bullying, harassment, threatened, being glared at and mean mugged, but it was unclear on what he meant specifically.

Traci Kannon, Shadow Ridge High School, said she agreed with her colleagues and wished to see the Board look at more options when it comes to a contract extension.

Jessica Lovell, said she represented all CCSD Principals and that they were all against a 3 year renewal. She said Mr. Jackson should be at CCSD Principal meetings without an invitation, and she expects better communication with them specifically. Ms. Lovell concluded by urging the Board to look at the future and listen to those here today.

Legal Counsel, Neil Rombardo Esq., stated for the Board that the agenda item was unequivocally clear with the action to be taken today, and that there was no way to misunderstand that upon reading the description; which is in accordance with OML.

A roll call vote was held; Members Sloan, Cavazos, McNaught, Brockett, Freeman, and Wipperman voted nay; Members Stallworth, Malkovich, Kenny, Poulsen, Sorensen and Woodley voted yay; motion did not pass due to a 6-6 tie.

18. Lacrosse Officials Organization Sanctioning

Officials Coordinator Ellen Townsend presented the Northern Nevada Lacrosse Officials Association (NNLOA) for sanctioning to the Board of Control. Ms. Townsend began by reviewing how the association recruits officials, officials by-laws, and registration process.

President Sloan requested more information regarding where other regions of the state were with recruiting officials; Liaison Townsend stated she had spoken with the SNOA Commissioner, and from what that association had gathered, they would be able to cover southern games. President Sloan requested a follow up at the next meeting with breakdowns on officials only covering one gender, the proposed paygrade, clarification from the NFHS on the number of officials required to cover one high school game, and the rough estimate per school on how much fielding boys and girls lacrosse would cost.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Malkovich, to approve the Sanctioning of Lacrosse Officials, as proposed. *Motion passed without opposition.*

19. Lacrosse Alignment

Public comment was heard from Erinn Miller, Whittell High School Parent, regarding the current transfer system and how the sanctioning of lacrosse will impact smaller schools, the ability to play lacrosse during another sports season; and their smaller feeder/club teams; as the rules are currently enforced, and if certain exceptions could be made for rural districts that struggle to field consistent teams; or allow intradistrict eligibility for smaller divisions.

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, presented the proposed alignment for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Lacrosse seasons. Mr. Jackson explained the reasoning behind the proposed alignments, based on feedback from schools who currently field programs. A coinflip was held and it was determined that the first state championship would be held in the south. Bart Davis, Assistant Director, said he would be responsible for seeding and that leagues would be formed by those parties in the future. Mr. Jackson thanked Ellen Townsend, the Officials Coordinator, for her hard work with communicating statewide with officials organization. Member Poulsen asked when schools would need to communicate whether or not they would be fielding a team; Mr. Davis said January 15th at the latest.

Motion: Member Poulsen; **Second:** Member Malovich, to approve the lacrosse alignment for 2026-2027 and

2027-2028, as presented in the packet. ***Motion passed without opposition.***

20. Spectator Policy

Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, introduced this item, reminding the Board that this item has been previously approved and after many years of hard work, this would be the last time the Board needed to address this policy.

Member McNaught and President Sloan thanked the Board for the time and hard work put into this policy.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve the NIAA Spectator Policy as presented, for approval. ***Motion passed without opposition.***

21. Approval of Regulations returned from the LCB

Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, presented to the Board of Control the following regulations returned from the LCB for approval.

- a. R020-25 - Cate Sgroi reviewed the language added to these regulations; some were outdated, some new regulations were needed to clearly define how a sport becomes sanctioned, and outlines expectations.
 1. New Reg: NFHS Sanctioning Standards
 2. New Reg: Tournament Participation
 3. New Reg: Tournament Application
 4. NAC 385B.302: Schedule Submissions
 5. NAC 385B.308: Schedule Restriction with Suspended Schools
 6. NAC 385B.310: Schedule Restriction with Non-member Schools

Motion: Member Brockett; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve the language in R020-25, as presented. ***Motion passed without opposition.***

- b. R033-26

1. NAC 385B.106: Legislative Liaison to Board - Ms. Sgroi explained that the changes in this regulation changed the language on who is appointed.

Motion: Member McNaught; **Second:** Member Wipperman, to approve the language in R033-26, as returned by the LCB.

Motion passed without opposition.

- c. R021-25 - Cate Sgroi reviewed the policies returned regarding the One-Time Transfer and other policies tied to its implementation; the Board was reminded that these policies have been discussed and approved by this body many times.

1. Proposed new regulation regarding a one-time transfer
2. Proposed new regulation regarding prohibited participation of pupil
3. Proposed new regulation regarding a third level of appeal pursuant to Assembly Bill 184
4. Proposed new regulation regarding transfer process based on Assembly Bill 184
5. NAC 385B.342 - Recruiting
6. NAC 385B.702 - Rosters
7. NAC 385B.704 - Additional requirements for eligibility
8. NAC 385B.712 - Residency of a pupil, general
9. NAC 385B.714 - Residency of a pupil, burden of proof
10. NAC 385B.716 - Presumption of ineligibility
11. NAC 385B.718 - Rebuttal of presumption of ineligibility
12. Rescinding of NAC 385B.720 - Transfers between schools within the same attendance zone
13. NAC 385B.722 - Magnet, vocational, or technical academies
14. Rescinding of NAC 385B.728 - Option-zoned school and rezoning
15. NAC 385B.734 - Homeschooled students
16. NAC 385B.736 - Rezoning of schools
17. NAC 385B.740 - Participation at more than one school within the same season

18. NAC 385B.742 - Reestablishment of eligibility after transfer
19. NAC 385B.744 - Out of zone eligibility at levels other than varsity
20. NAC 385B.910 - Appeals based on ineligibilities

Motion: Member Stallworth; **Second:** Member Malkovich, to approve the language in R021-25, as returned by the LCB.

Motion passed without opposition.

22. 2026 HOF Inductees

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, presented the NIAA 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees, by reviewing their press release and a brief synopsis of their qualifications. He congratulated the inductees and thanked them for what they contributed to high school athletics. President Sloan said that she believed the committees responsible for selecting the individuals do a good job and she's not sure why the Board needs to approve inductees. Mr. Jackson informed President Sloan that the previous director had added it to the agenda one time and another previous director had done it a handful of times. There is language on the website that implies it is a policy, when in fact, is not. Member Kenny asked if this was what Member McNaught had mentioned earlier during Mr. Jackson's reviewing, in regards to him acting out of his authority. Member McNaught confirmed that he was under the impression it was a formal policy based on the webpage. President Sloan reiterated that this action does not need to be made by the Board.

Motion: Member Wipperman; **Second:** Member Stallworth, to approve the 2026 HOF Inductees.

Motion passed without opposition.

Discussion Items

23. State Wrestling

Vice President Stallworth started a discussion on wrestling venues, noting that he believes the sport has grown so much that it is hard to hold the postseason in one location, for all divisions. Mr. Jackson agreed with the tremendous growth and informed the Board of a potential contact with Rafter C3, who would like to broker a multi-year deal to host 2A, 3A and the Girls Division; Sean FitzSimons, Assistant Director, said that the contract was seeking a three year commitment.

Mr. Jackson began the reoccurring discussion regarding the tradition of alternating northern and southern sites, how his evaluations directed him to lock them in, but certain parties do not want to change practices due to concerns with costs and transportation. Liaison Mayo recommended splitting the post season into small and large divisions to help with these issues. Member Poulsen echoed Mr. Jackson's frustration with the issue and said the Board entrusts the Executive Directors to find the best available, which entails contracts. Liaison Baldwin reminded members of the Board that smaller schools and districts make it happen, with less funding, and support, and make the journeys, with no complaints. Liaison Habig questioned if it is the size of the venue or the energy of the host site itself.

Mr. Jackson reminded the Board that shared coaches would need to be considered when finding a solution to the postseason. Mr. FitzSimons referred to standalone sports such as track; they should be avoided in order to provide an exciting and consistent post season championship. The NIAA staff are meeting with different properties to secure affordable room rate deals that districts can utilize.

President Sloan said she would meet with schools to discuss the 4A standalone divisions and see how they feel about moving away from that model next realignment cycle. Mr. Jackson concluded by requesting that

the Board not continue to hold him accountable for this particular directive, when the Board alone prevents him from making these deals possible.

24. Lacrosse

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, opened a discussion with High Sierra League Representatives on the final implementation of lacrosse in Nevada, by introducing Paul Speaker, Jeremy Sieverts and Jonah Haas. These public speakers were present to answer questions about lacrosse implementation for the Board. Tim Jackson asked how many contests were feasible in a day, under a high school program; Mr. Sieverts said that it is typically one game per day, with 3-4 games occurring per week. Xavier Antheaume, NADA, stated that some states have quarter rules, putting a cap on how many quarters per day athletes can play, versus the one game per day scenario. Jeremy Sieverts continued on and explained the key differences in the sport for males and females, the types of injuries seen and gave a breakdown on what gear is used by what program.

Member Wiperman asked how spaces were going to be shared for practice and games and what field line requirements would look like; lacrosse requested the option of either early or later games at school sites. Per NFHS rules, girls and boys have different field lines, but Jonah Haas assured the Board that many schools do this across the nation and it would not impact grounds significantly.

The discussion concluded with Superintendent Holmes reminding viewers that education budgets are hurting across Nevada, and everything comes with fiscal responsibilities that ought to be considered, even when we want to provide opportunities to children.

25. NAC 385B.444 Football Maximum Participation

Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, reviewed the current language for football participation limits with the Board, explaining the reasons regulations currently exist and the results of the 2A statewide survey the NIAA conducted regarding the possibility of instituting a “6 quarter” rule in 2A football. Liaison Parker explained that smaller schools who struggle to field every level of programs were requesting that this be looked at in order to save programs where low enrollment numbers prevent JV and Freshman teams from competing. Ms. Sgroi said that leagues would be responsible for tracking their quarters, in order to make this manageable. Member Wiperman said he thought this was a great idea; Mr. Jackson agreed although he noted that there are some concerns and stipulations that come along with these types of changes, to ensure it is used for the intended purpose and is not abused; he also said that he saw the value in continuing this discussion with other sports to save programs in smaller schools and build up programs in larger divisions.

Liaison Antheaume pointed out safety concerns when it comes to contact sports and pointed out how this could help address some impact; Liaison Henneman agreed and said it would behoove underclassmen to play up and gain experience at a higher level.

Cate Sgroi suggested continuing the discussion with the Rules, Regulations and Policies Committee to fine tune some necessary policy changes before returning it to the Board.

26. Alignment Policies - Classification by Zone (Charter/Private League)

Board Member McNaught requested that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

No discussion took place at this time.

27. Board Governance - CIF model

Board Member McNaught requested that this item regarding the California Interscholastic Federation Section Model be postponed until the next meeting; Superintendent Holmes disagreed and requested to discuss it anyway, noting it could be returned to the next agenda, regardless if discussion occurred during the spring

meeting.

Mr. Jackson explained that member McNaught had requested this item, wanting to see if the CIF model is something that could be done in Nevada. Mr. Holmes noted some similarities between the organizations but underscored the vast differences in the states overall, including their population and size; it was a poor choice of state to compare business with. Member Poulsen questioned if NRS established the NIAA, the legality of the CIF model; Mr. Rombardo agreed and said that this would require changes within the legislature.

Mr. Jackson informed the Board that this would likely be a discussion during the Sunset Committee meeting, as their role is to evaluate efficiency of government entities. Vice President Stallworth said he thought it was time the Board of Control revisited their current structure, and looked closely at fair representation. Member Kenny agreed and stated he would like to see the Board get away from the north/south issue, and voting members get back to representing their region as a whole, not just themselves and those they deal with directly.

Member Poulsen said this would require some work with the LCB but it is time for changes to be made. Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, informed the Board that this would be a major overhaul on policies, as many regulations currently exist; the real issue is voting members are becoming overly focused on their community versus their voting region as a whole, charter and private schools.

Member Brockett agreed, and reiterated her desire to look at the future and anticipate changes in high school athletics; charter and private schools need their own vote at the table.

28. Assembly Bill 184 - Quarterly Report

Cate Sgroi, Assistant Director, led an update on Assembly Bill 184 and implementation, by highlighting the similarities between this report and her January report. She shared one recent development, where a team made it far during the postseason as a direct result of AB184.

Ms. Sgroi also reminded the Board on how AB184 would look if the One-Time Transfer rule were implemented; it is an either or situation, not both. Ms. Sgroi said she would like help in dispelling rumors and miscommunications throughout communities, and asked liaisons to share with their constituents. She concluded by informing the Board that only one more of these reports will be brought forth due to the possibility of a One-Time Transfer rule that would skew this data.

29. HRM Improvements

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, led a discussion on operational implementations for the HRM System. The issues with the original model were discussed repeatedly with MaxPreps and game reporting, so the NIAA office is recommending outsourcing this system entirely to a company called Fusion Sports. This would eliminate the claim that there is bias within the NIAA and transparency would exist live statewide. Mr. Jackson said he is still working with them on a feasible number but that both he and Mr. Davis had met with them and were pleased with their product. President Sloan requested a link to look at their website and compare it to the HRM system from the fall.

Member McNaught asked if this would need to come back for a vote; Mr. Jackson said this would fall under operations, so it may not need to. He ended by letting the Board know he would share out the link and move forward with Fusion Sports.

30. Fractional CFO

Timothy Jackson, Executive Director, introduced a discussion on the need and search for a Fractional Chief

Financial Officer, under a part time model, which is common for small businesses. Member Brockett asked if they would be able to conduct audits as well. Mr. Jackson said that while they cannot conduct them, they certainly play a role in preparing for them. He estimated a cost of about \$1,500 per month, based on quotes gathered. Mr. Jackson will update the Board as needed.

31. Winter and Spring Ejection Data and Update

Ellen Townsend, Coordinator of Officials, provided a season recap and status update on ejections following the Winter Season and the start of the Spring Season. Ellen included the breakdown of ejections in the packet for review. President Sloan asked whether the approved Spectator Policy would be available on the website, noting a recent uptick in batflips. Ms. Townsend said that those situations typically will end in ejection if deemed egregious enough. Liaison Habig reminded her peers of reports that umpires have lost control of games and either allow chaos to ensue, or over-correct with harsh penalties.

32. Future Items

- Football 6 Quarter Rule Discussion
- Statewide Lacrosse Officials Update
- Lacrosse Calendar
- State Wrestling
- Fractional CFO
- Governance Training
- Process for adding agenda items
- 2026 Spirit State Championship
- SMAC Update

33. Public Comment

Joe Lawrence, Galena High School, gave public comment regarding football realignment and his belief that Bishop Gorman should not be allowed to compete for a state championship title. He reminded everyone about the vast differences in regions, with populations and needs varying across each end of the spectrum.

34. Adjournment

President Sloan adjourned the meeting at 1:53PM.